

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 2725

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, CH
SUBJ: PEOPLE'S DAILY ARTICLE ON THE 1976 TIENANMEN INCIDENT

REF: A. PEKING 2652; B. PEKING 2377; C. PEKING 2315; D. PEKING 2236

1. SUMMARY. IN AN APPARENT RESPONSE TO PUBLIC PRESSURE, THE AUGUST 29 PEOPLE'S DAILY CARRIED AN ARTICLE WHICH LAUDED THE INVOLVEMENT OF TWO YOUTHS IN THE CONTROVERSIAL TIENANMEN INCIDENT. WHILE THE ARTICLE DOES NOT DIRECTLY IMPLICATE WU TEH AND OTHER LOCAL OFFICIALS FOR QUASHING THE RIOTS, THE APPEARANCE OF THE ARTICLE, WALL POSTER CRITICISM OF WU TEH AND THE PEKING REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE, AND OPEN CRITICISM OF WU BY PEKING RESIDENTS, SUGGESTS THAT WU'S POSITION AS PEKING'S PARTY BOSS IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY UNTENABLE. END SUMMARY.

2. PEKING'S POLITICAL PROBLEMS WERE AGAIN TOUCHED ON IN A PEOPLE'S DAILY ARTICLE. THE AUGUST 29 PEOPLE'S DAILY CARRIED A REPORT ON A RECENT CONFERENCE OF PEKING MUNICIPAL
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COMMUNIST YOUTH LEAGUE MEMBERS. THE CONFERENCE LAUDED THE HEROIC CONTRIBUTIONS OF YOUTH AND SPECIFICALLY CITED THE EXPERIENCES OF HO YEN-KUANG AND HAN CHIH-HSIUNG WHO HAD BEEN ARRESTED FOR WRITING SLOGANS AND POSTERS DURING THE APRIL 1976 TIENANMEN INCIDENT.

3. THE ARTICLE STATED THAT HO YEN-KUANG, A VICE CHAIRMAN

OF THE CHUNG-WEN DISTRICT CHEMICAL FIBER FACTORY, HAD BEEN ARRESTED FOR WRITING INFLAMMATORY EPITAPHS AND SENDING A WREATH TO THE MARTYRS MONUMENT IN APRIL 1976. HO IS REPORTED TO HAVE DEFENDED TENG HSIAO-PING WHO WAS THEN UNDER ATTACK FOR HIS ATTEMPTS TO DEVELOP THE CHINESE ECONOMY. HE ALSO CRITICIZED CHANG TIEH-SHENG, WHO SYMBOLIZED THE GANG OF FOUR'S APPROACH TO EDUCATION. HO REPORTEDLY STATED IN 1976 THAT IF CHANG CAME TO HIS FACTORY, THE MASSES WOULD "BLAST HIM OUT." HO WAS DETAINED FOR FOUR MONTHS IN 1976 AND QUESTIONED 49 TIMES. HE REFUSED TO ADMIT HIS "CRIMES" AND CONTINUED TO WRITE ESSAYS AND POEMS IN PRISON.

4. THE CONFERENCE ALSO LAUDED THE EXPERIENCE OF HAN CHIH-HSIUNG, A YOUNG WORKER FROM THE NO. 2 BUILDING MAINTENANCE CO. HAN ALSO WROTE REVOLUTIONARY SLOGANS THAT WERE POSTED IN TIENANMEN SQUARE AND WAS ARRESTED BY THE GANG OF FOUR AND THEIR "BLACK DIE-HARDS."

5. BOTH HO AND HAN HAD THEIR "VERDICTS REVERSED" AFTER THE ARREST OF THE GANG OF FOUR IN OCTOBER 1976, ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE.

6. COMMENT: POSTERS IN FRONT OF THE PEOPLE'S DAILY OFFICES EARLIER THIS SUMMER DEMANDED THAT THE PAPER ADDRESS THE CONTROVERSIAL TIENANMEN INCIDENT AND CALLED FOR A REVERSAL OF VERDICTS ON INDIVIDUALS ARRESTED FOR PARTICIPATING IN CONFIDENTIAL

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THE INCIDENT (REF D). THE AUGUST 29 ARTICLE IS BY NO MEANS A DEFINITIVE STATEMENT THAT THOSE INVOLVED IN THE INCIDENT ARE "REVOLUTIONARY HEROES" BUT IT DOES INDICATE THAT THE CENTRAL AUTHORITIES ARE AGAIN REVIEWING THIS CONTROVERSIAL INCIDENT THAT LED TO TENG'S DISMISSAL AND HUA'S APPOINTMENT AS PREMIER AND FIRST CCP VICE CHAIRMAN. THE ARTICLE ALSO INDIRECTLY CRITICIZES PEKING AUTHORITIES SUCH AS WU TEH AND POSSIBLY PEKING MILITARY REGION COMMANDER CHEN HSI-LIEN WHOSE INVOLVEMENT IN QUASHING THE RIOTS IS STILL BITTERLY REMEMBERED BY MANY OF PEKING'S RESIDENTS. THE APPEARANCE OF THIS ARTICLE, THE JULY LETTER TO THE PEOPLE'S DAILY EDITOR CRITICAL OF WU TEH (REF C), WALLPOSTER CRITICISM OF WU TEH AND THE PEKING REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE, AND OPEN CRITICISM OF WU BY PEKING RESIDENTS INDICATE THAT WU TEH'S POSITION AS PEKING'S PARTY BOSS IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY UNTENABLE. WOODCOCK

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